

What is Claimed is:

1. A personal digital assistant (PDA) enabled telephony system comprising:
 - a telephone set having a communication port; and
 - 5 a PDA having a user interface for displaying telephony functions to a user, a detector for detecting a selected telephony function, a telephony application for determining a call command based on said selected telephony function, and a communicator for communicating said call command to said communication port;
 - 10 wherein said telephone set receives said call command and, in response, executes said selected telephony function.
2. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein communication between said telephone set and said PDA is achieved via a protocol implemented via software within each of said telephone set and said PDA.
 - 15 3. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 2, wherein said protocol as implemented within said PDA comprises a physical layer for exchanging said call command between said PDA and said telephone set, an application specific interface for formatting said call command for use by said PDA, and a first information encapsulation layer for appending source/destination headers to said call command received from said application specific interface and transmitting same over said physical layer to said telephone set.
 - 20 4. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 3, wherein said protocol as implemented within said telephone set comprises said physical layer, a network portal control interface for detecting whether said call command is capable of processing directly within said telephone set and otherwise re-transmits said call command , and a second information encapsulation layer for appending source/destination headers to said call command received from said network portal control interface and transmitting same over said physical layer.
 - 25 30 at least one of an IrDA, Bluetooth, USB or RS-232 communication protocol.
 5. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein said telephone set includes communication means for enabling communication between said PDA and a call server.

6. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 3 wherein said communication between said PDA and said call server is via one of either a TDM or IP based communication network.

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7. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein said telephone set includes communication means for enabling communication between said PDA and a network node.

8. The PDA enabled telephony system according to any one of the foregoing claims, 10 wherein said physical layer comprises at least one of a wired interface or wireless interface.

9. The PDA enabled telephony system according to claim 8, wherein said wired interface comprises at least one of a serial interface, parallel interface, USB interface, tip and ring interface.

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10. The PDA enabled telephony system according to claim 8, wherein said wireless interface comprises at least one of an infrared/IrDA interface, radio interface, and cellular interface.